

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01200 272108Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /079 W

-----006988 272118Z /64

R 272035Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2621

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1200

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJ: THE ARCHBISHOP SOFTENS TONE OF HIS EASTER MESSAGE

REF: 77 ASUNCION 5229

1. IN HIS EASTER MESSAGE, EMPHASIZING THE THEME OF PEACE, ISMAEL ROLON, ARCHBISHOP OF ASUNCION, SOFTENED THE TONE AND THRUST OF HIS SPEECH COMPARED TO HIS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE. DRAWING ON PAPAL PRO-NOUNCEMENTS, THE ARCHBISHOP NOTED THAT PEACE IS NOT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO AND CALLED ON HIS FLOCK TO WORK FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PEACE, FORGIVING AND FORGETTING IF NECESSARY, FOR THE UNITY OF THE NATION AT A CRUCIAL TIME. HE THEN ASKS "THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO SEEK ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISMS THAT WOULD ASSURE A JUSTICE WHICH PRESERVES AND DEFENDS HUMAN RIGHTS", AND CALLS ON EVERYONE TO VIEW "POLITICIZATION AS AN EVIL WHOSE INEVITABLE RESULT IS DUPLICITY, DISSIMULATION AND THE EXPLOITATION OF OTHERS."

2. ARCHBISHOP ROLON'S SPEECH WAS NON POLEMICAL AND CONTAINED LITTLE OF CONTROVERSY OTHER THAN THESE COMPARATIVELY MILD AND INDIRECT CRITICISMS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE MESSAGE SEEMS AN INDICATION THAT THE CHURCH WISHES TO ADOPT A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE GOVERNMENT ON ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

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3. THAT HUMAN RIGHTS HAS AT LEAST FOUND A PLACE IN OFFICIAL JARGON WAS AGAIN DEMONSTRATED MARCH 22. FOLLOWING A MEETING OF COLORADO PARTY STALWARTS WITH THE PRESIDENT, PARTY PRESIDENT JUAN RAMON CHAVEZ TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE MEETING WAS HELD TO ASSURE PRESIDENT STROESSNER OF THE PARTY'S PERMANENT SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT POLICY AND TO "ASSURE THE PRESIDENT THAT WE SHALL PURSUE THE ROAD OF DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM, AND RESPECT FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS." WHETHER ACTIONS WILL FOLLOW THE WORDS REMAINS  
TO BE SEEN.  
BRIGGS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ASUNCIO1200  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780133-0354  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 ASUNCION 5229  
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**SAS ID:** 3199436  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE ARCHBISHOP SOFTENS TONE OF HIS EASTER MESSAGE  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PA, (ROLON, ISMAEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014